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Eighteenth Report

**COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF
THE VIETNAM AND LAOS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS**

**(This report covers the week from
15 June through 21 June 1973)**

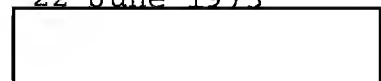
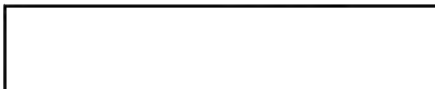
*This memorandum has been prepared jointly by the
Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense*

DIA review(s) completed.

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22 June 1973

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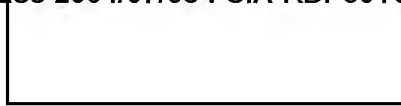
The Key Points

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- Communist logistic activity remains at very low, rainy-season levels in southern Laos, but has increased in northern South Vietnam and in the North Vietnamese Panhandle.
- Combat activity in South Vietnam diminished within a few days after the Paris "Communique" went into effect on 15 June. Activity in Laos remained at a very low level.

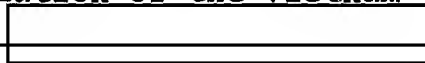
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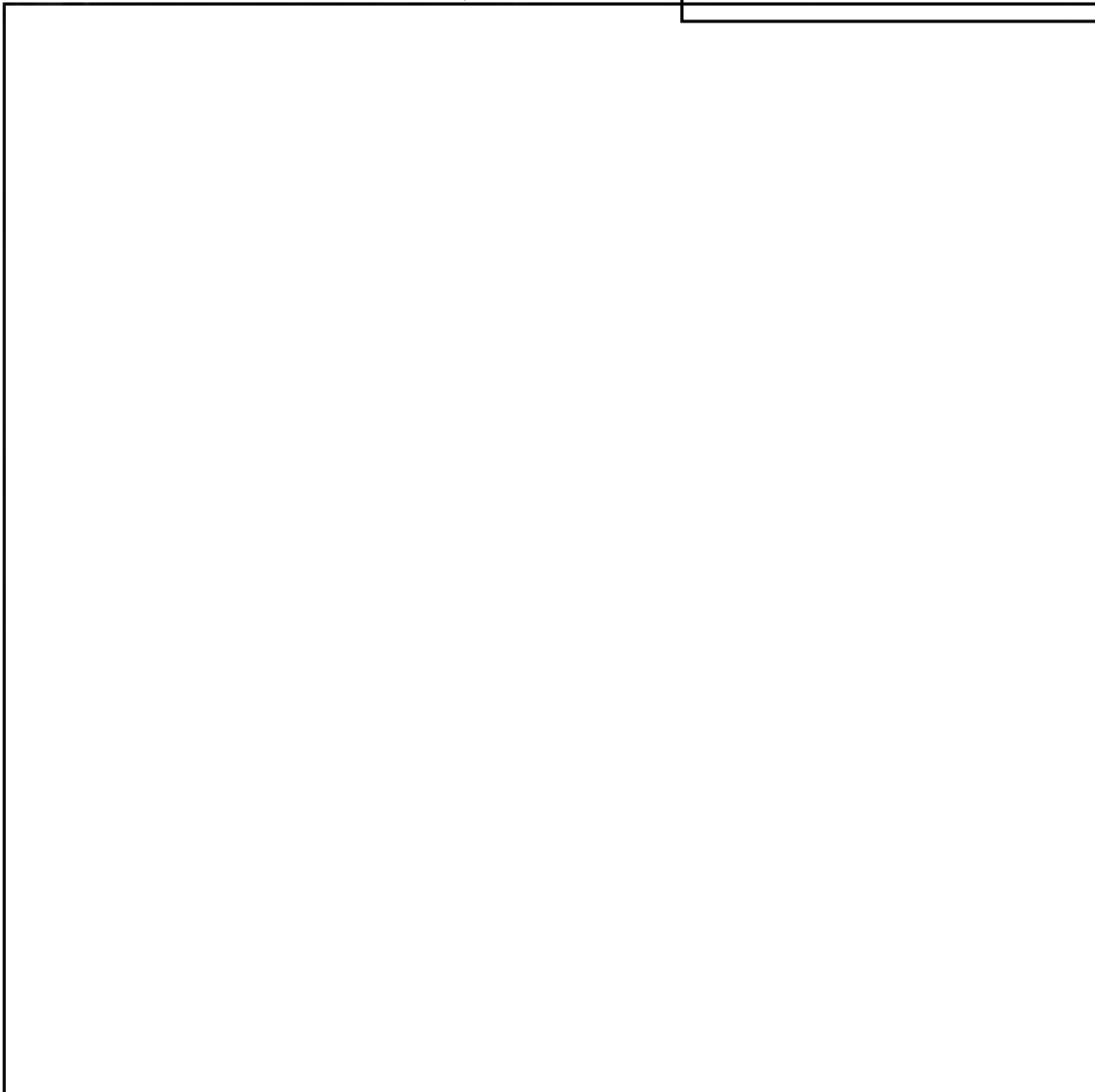


The Details

NOTE: This is the eighteenth in a series of reports detailing recently received evidence of (a) Communist efforts to infiltrate new manpower and military materiel toward and into South Vietnam, and (b) Communist-initiated combat activity in violation of the Vietnam and Laos settlement agreements.

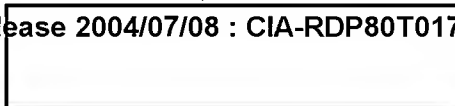


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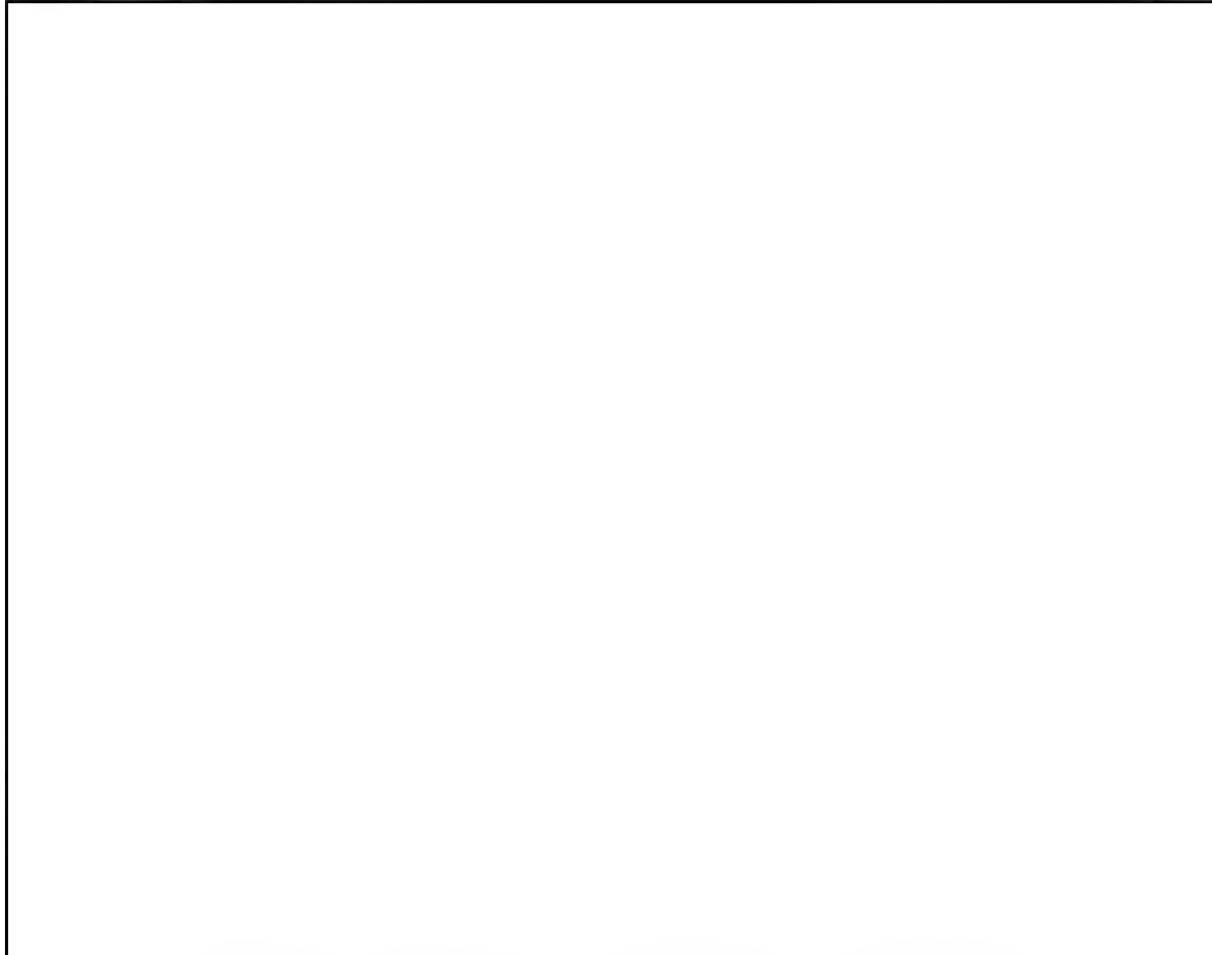
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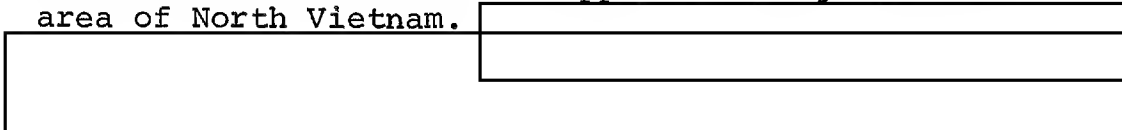
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B. Movement of Military Equipment and Supplies
Through and Into Laos and South Vietnam

5. The pattern of logistic activity in southern Laos was essentially unchanged from that observed during the preceding several weeks. Cargo movements in the Laos Panhandle--which is now well into the rainy season--have slowed to a funereal pace. In contrast to recent weeks, however, there was an increase in the movement of supplies through the Vinh area of North Vietnam.

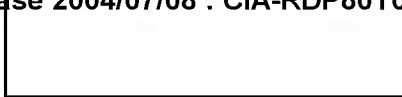


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6. The following instances of Communist logistic activity were observed in South Vietnam during the period. Activity observed in South Vietnam probably reflects supplies which have recently entered the country. This activity, while it is carried out by military logisticians, may well have a dual purpose--to resupply the combat forces, but also to provide logistical support for the civilian population in Communist-controlled areas.

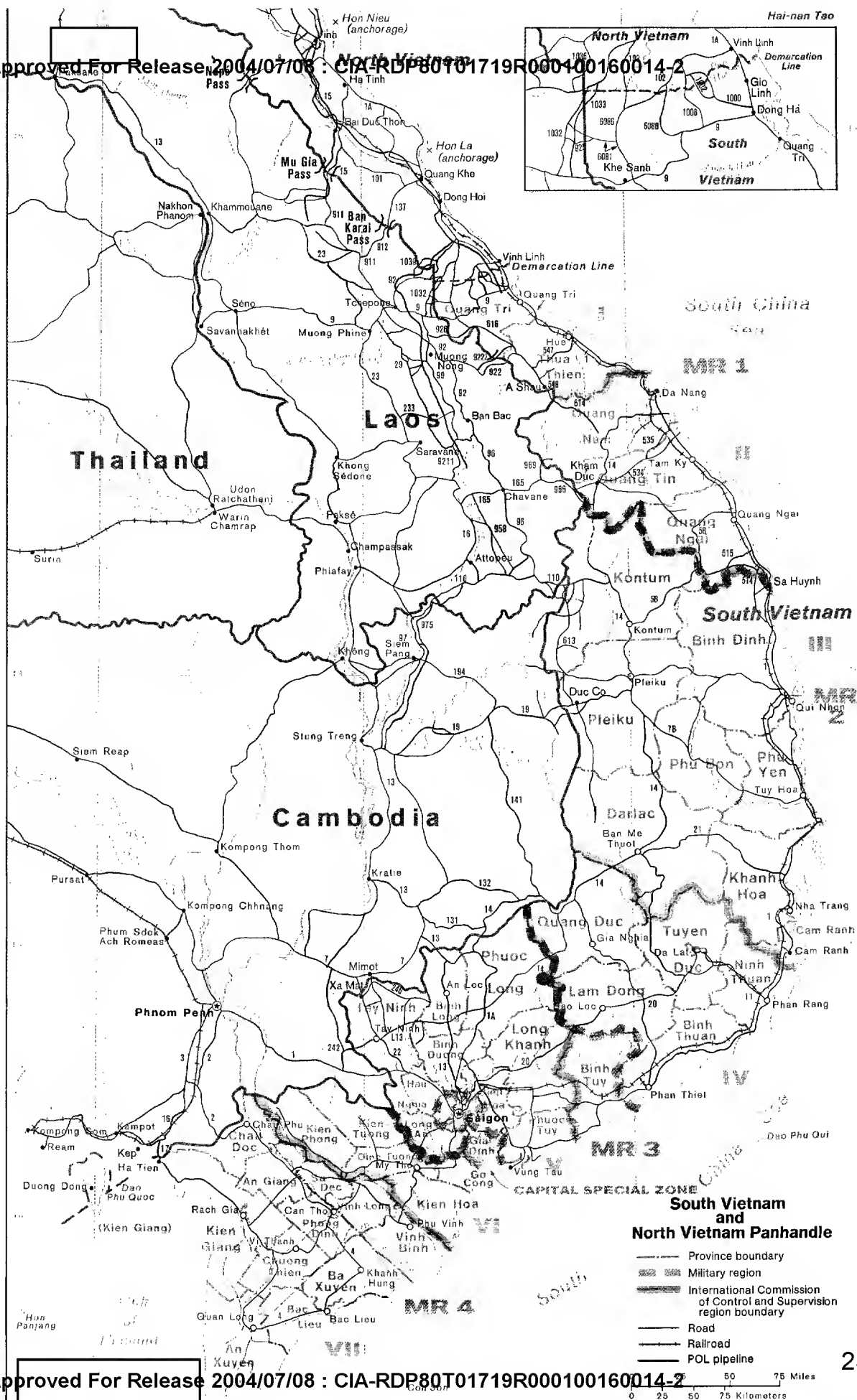
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(The map on the following page shows the roads and route numbers which appear below.)

- a) On 16 June, there were 89 cargo trucks detected on Route 9 between Dong Ha and the Laos/South Vietnam border (21 eastbound, 27 westbound, 41 parked).
- b) On 18 June, 92 cargo vehicles were observed on the western segment of Route 9 between the Laos/South Vietnam border and the junction with Route 6088 (8 eastbound, 5 westbound, 79 parked).
- c) On 18 June, there were 84 cargo trucks on Route 6089 south of Khe Sanh (5 northbound, 31 southbound, 48 parked).
- d) On 18 June, there were 109 cargo vehicles detected on Route 616 southeast of Khe Sanh (23 northbound, 42 southbound, 44 parked).

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- e) On 20 June, 31 cargo vehicles were seen along Route 9 between the Laos/South Vietnam border and the junction with Route 6088 (4 eastbound, 4 westbound, 23 parked).
- f) On 20 June, 90 trucks (11 southbound, 25 northbound, and 54 parked) were observed on Route 6089 south of Khe Sanh, and 42 trucks (7 southbound, 28 westbound, and 7 parked) were seen on Route 616 in the same area.
- g) On 21 June, 86 trucks (43 northbound, 13 southbound, and 30 parked) were observed on Route 548 in the A Shau Valley.

7. During the reporting period the following indications of North Vietnamese logistic activity in southern Laos were noted. Historical precedent would suggest that much of this activity probably involved supplies destined for South Vietnam.

- a) The table below lists observed NVA vehicle activity on selected routes in the Laos Panhandle during the reporting period.*

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Rt 99</u> | <u>Rt 9211</u> | <u>Rt 958</u> |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| 14 June | 0 | 1(1-N) | NC |
| 15 June | 1(Parked) | 1(Parked) | 0 |
| 16 June | 7(3-S) | 0 | NC |
| 17 June | 3(1-S) | 1 (Parked) | NC |
| 18 June | 0 | 0 | NC |
| 19 June | NC | NC | NC |
| 20 June | NC | NC | NC |

* The first number in each entry is the total number of vehicles. Of these totals, the number of trucks moving north (N) or south (S) are noted in the parentheses after each total. The remainder of the vehicles detected were parked along the roadway. "NC" indicates no coverage.

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- b) On 14 June, 11 cargo vehicles were sighted on Route 914 south of Tchepone (1 northbound, 2 southbound, 8 parked).

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C. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces
in South Vietnam Since the Ceasefire

9. In South Vietnam, the total number of Communist-initiated ceasefire violations reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces since 27 January and for the last week (15-21 June) are shown below:

| <u>Military Region</u> | <u>Total Since Ceasefire Level of Action</u> | | <u>Last Week (15-21 June) Level of Action</u> | |
|----------------------------|--|--------|---|---------------------|
| | Major | Minor | Major | Minor |
| MR 1 | 1,050 | 3,453 | 25 | 94 |
| MR 2 | 278 | 1,926 | 14 | 72 |
| MR 3 | 409 | 2,692 | 7 | 116 |
| MR 4 | 711 | 6,485 | 33 | 319 |
| Totals | 2,448 | 14,556 | 79 (112) <u>1/</u> | 601 (710) <u>1/</u> |

1/ Denotes totals of previous week.

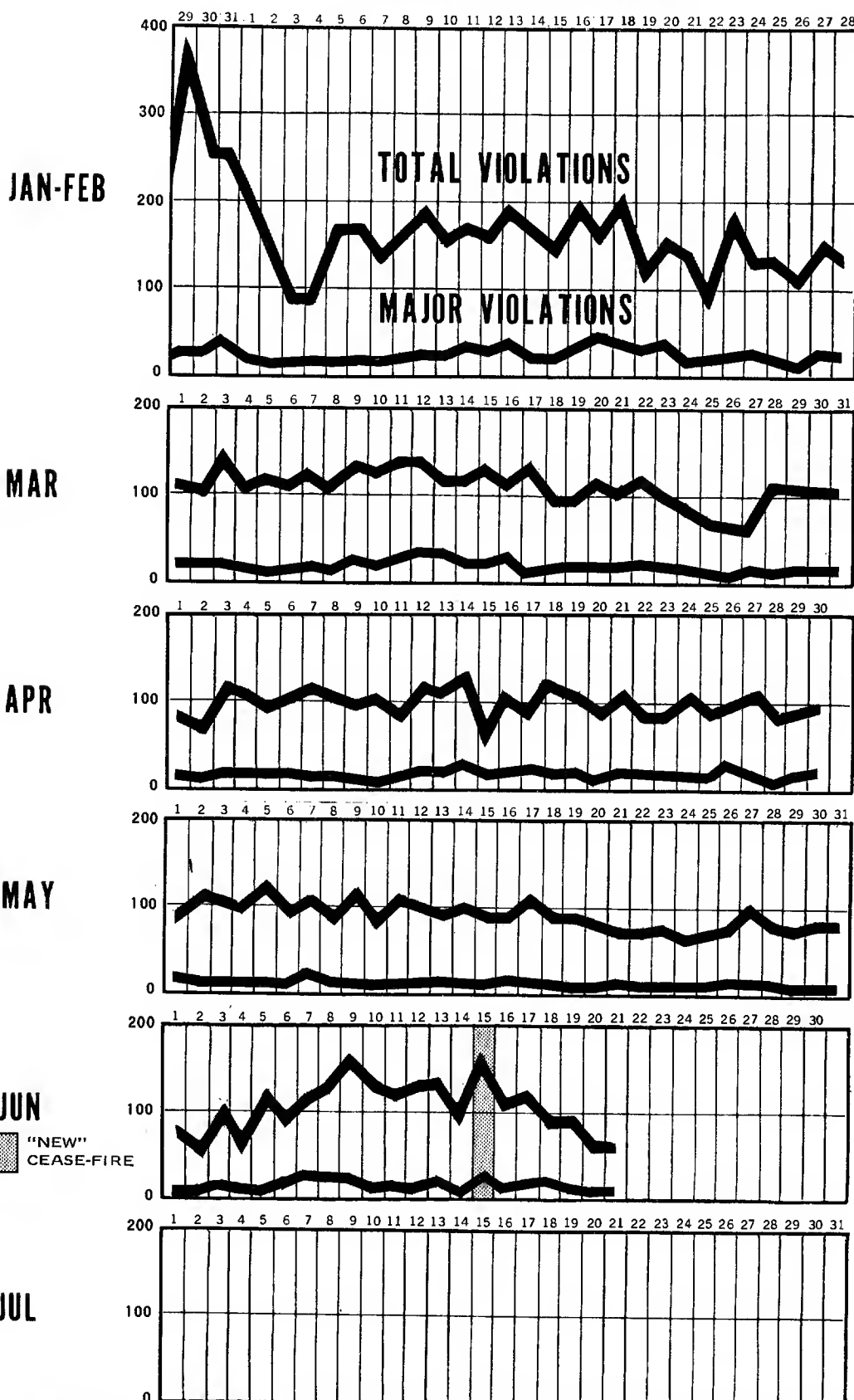
10. Some of these violations may have been initiated by GVN forces rather than Communist forces, and it is impossible in all cases to determine the actual instigator. The table above and the chart on the following page, however, do show fairly accurately the trend in the amount of combat that has occurred in South Vietnam since the ceasefire. The fact that a combat incident occurred at a particular



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CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS REPORTED BY RVNAF

(28 JANUARY 1973 TO THE PRESENT)



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time and place is generally reported accurately by the South Vietnamese, even though the question of who started it may not always be treated in objective fashion. In some cases, the Joint Military Commission (GVN/PRG) also reports violations of the ceasefire.

11. The following is a chronological listing of only the most significant "major" Communist violations of the ceasefire in South Vietnam that were reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces during the past week.

MILITARY REGION 1

- a) On 15 June, ARVN forces 32 miles southwest of Da Nang received a ground attack.
- b) On 17 June, ground fire downed a VNAF UH-1H helicopter 30 miles southwest of Da Nang.

MILITARY REGION 2

- a) On 15 June, friendly forces 10 miles west of Kontum City received a ground attack.
- b) On 18 June, ARVN forces seven miles south of Bong Son received a ground attack.

MILITARY REGION 3

- a) No significant activity.

MILITARY REGION 4

- a) On 15 June, friendly forces six miles southwest of Vi Thanh received a ground attack.
- b) On 17 June, ARVN forces eight miles southwest of Ca Mau received a ground attack.

D. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces
in Laos During the Week From 15 Through 21 June

12. On 14 and 15 June, a government local defense force which had been under intermittent enemy pressure in the San Soak airstrip area in extreme northern Khamouane Province was finally driven from the area by an estimated two enemy companies. Over 350 refugees followed the withdrawing government troops to the village of Pha Hom, approximately 30 kilometers northwest of San Soak.

13. Elsewhere, Communist-initiated combat activity in Laos during the week was limited to small scale harassment actions.

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